

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant has cancelled claim 2 without prejudice to address the claim objections.

The Examiner maintains the §102 rejections of claim 1 as being anticipated separately by both Sadler and Hsin. However, the rejections are based on an incorrect interpretation of the claim language, and specifically, of the claim term "integrally formed."

Claim 1 is directed to a peripheral accessory device for a wireless communication device (e.g., a hands-free headset) that allows a user to connect one or more additional peripheral accessory devices (e.g., an MP3 player) to the wireless device. The peripheral accessory device comprises an auxiliary system connector. Claim 1 recites that the auxiliary connector is "integrally formed with the cord and positioned along the cord between the system plug and the first peripheral device."

Those of ordinary skill in the art readily understand that the term "integrally formed," as used in claim 1, means that the auxiliary system connector and the cord are formed together as a single unit. Even though the connector and the cord may comprise separate parts initially, they are fixedly attached to one another such that they are joined together as a single unit in a substantially permanent manner. Neither Sadler nor Hsin discloses a peripheral device having an auxiliary connector integrally formed with a cord.

Sadler discloses a hands-free kit for a mobile telephone having a system plug (52), which the Examiner equates to the claimed auxiliary system connector. *Sadler*, Figure 1. The system plug includes a plurality of female connectors that receive plugs from a cassette tape, a microphone, and/or a CD player. However, the plugs leading from the cassette tape/microphone/CD player releasably couple to the system plug. Thus, the cord and the system plug readily separate from each other. They are not fixedly attached or joined together such that they form as a single unit in a substantially permanent manner. Therefore, the plug

and cord in Sadler are not “integrally formed” as required by claim 1. This design eliminates Sadler as an anticipating reference.

As for Hsin, Hsin discloses a multipurpose adaptor that allows a user to connect a cellular telephone to a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port on a computer. The adaptor also includes a connector that receives a common dry-cell battery. However, the Hsin adaptor is not “integrally-formed” with a cord that connects a peripheral device to a wireless communications device as claimed. Rather, as seen in Figure 1 of Hsin, a cord (15) includes a connector (24) that releasably attaches the adaptor to a system plug (25). “Releasably attached” means that the adaptor and cord in Hsin are not fixedly attached or joined together such that they form as a single unit in a substantially permanent manner. Thus, the adaptor and cord are not “integrally formed” as recited in claim 1. This design also eliminates Hsin as an anticipating reference.

Therefore, neither reference teaches an auxiliary system plug that is integrally formed with a cord. In addition, however, neither Sadler nor Hsin discloses an auxiliary system plug that is positioned along the cord between a system plug and a peripheral device as claimed.

The system plug of Sadler is itself a plug that is physically separate from the cord. When connected to the cord, it is positioned at a terminal end of a cord. Similarly, the Hsin adaptor is also positioned at a terminal end of a cord. Being at a terminal end of a cord necessarily prohibits both the Sadler plug and the Hsin adaptor from being positioned along the cord, as claimed. Indeed, neither can be located between themselves and a peripheral device connected to the cord as claimed. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over both Sadler and Hsin for at least this additional reason.

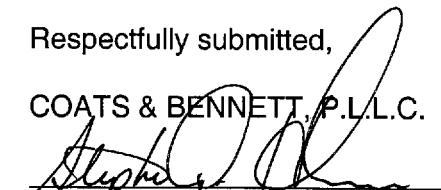
Finally, Hsin also fails to anticipate claim 1 because Hsin does not disclose “a switch disposed on the auxiliary system connector, and configured to selectively connect ... first and second peripheral devices to the wireless communications device.” Rather, Hsin discloses a switch that simply “controls the on/off states of a light source 22.” *Hsin*, col. 2, ll. 32-33. The

light source, which is an LED, is not a "peripheral device." Rather, according to Hsin, the LED is part of the adaptor. The Hsin switch turns the LED on and off. *Hsin*, col. 2, ll. 21-33. It does not selectively connect first and second peripheral devices to a wireless communication device as claimed. Thus, Hsin fails to anticipate claim 1 for this reason as well.

The Examiner also rejected independent claim 15 as being anticipated by both Hsin and Sadler for the same reasons as those stated to support the rejections of claim 1. Claim 15 is a method claim that corresponds to claim 1 and recites similar language. Therefore, for reasons similar to those stated above, both Hsin and Sadler fail to anticipate claim 15 or any of its dependent claims.

In light of the foregoing remarks, all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner allow all pending claims.

Dated: October 8, 2008

Respectfully submitted,
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